

DOCKET NO. 108430.014

PATENT

Response to Office Action Dated Aug. 28, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

an inner weir having a top surface that is free of recesses;

an overflow wall surrounding the inner weir and having a top with at least one recess, the at least one recess having a bottom;

wherein the top surface of the inner weir is below the bottom of the at least one recess;

and

a structure connecting the overflow wall and the inner weir so as to form a drainage basin, the drainage basin having at least one drain hole.

Claim 2 (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the top surface of the inner weir has an inside edge and an outside edge, the top surface of the inner weir being tapered downwardly from the inside edge to the outside edge, wherein the inside edge of the top surface is below the bottom of the at least one recess.

Claim 3 (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one recess is saw-toothed, rectangular, or semi-circular.

Claim 4 (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a drain valve fluidly connected to the at least one drain hole, the drain valve having an open and closed position so that the at least one drain hole is hermetically sealed when the drain valve is closed and allows fluid to freely flow through the at least one drain hole when the drain valve is opened.

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Claim 5 (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a drain valve fluidly connected to the at least one drain hole, the drain valve having an open and closed position so that the at least one drain hole is hermetically sealed when the drain valve is closed and allows fluid to freely flow through the at least one drain hole when the drain valve is opened; wherein the top surface of the inner weir has an inside edge and an outside edge, the top surface of the inner weir being tapered downwardly from the inside edge to the outside edge, wherein the inside edge of the top surface is below the bottom of the at least one recess; and wherein the at least one recess is saw-toothed.

Claim 6 (Original) A process tank comprising the system of claim 1.

Claim 7 (Original) The process tank of claim 6 wherein the process tank is a rinsing tank, a drying tank, or a chemical treatment tank.

Claim 8 (Original) A method comprising the steps of:

providing a process tank comprising the system of claim 1;

supplying a liquid to the process tank wherein the liquid comprising contaminants overflows the inner weir, fills the drainage basin, and overflows the overflow wall through the at least one recess of the overflow wall; and

wherein upon discontinuing the supply of liquid to the process tank, the contaminants do not reenter the process tank.

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Claim 9 (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the at least one drain hole is fluidly connected to a drain valve having an open and closed position so that the at least one drain hole is hermetically sealed when the drain valve is closed and allows fluid to freely flow through the at least one drain hole when the drain valve is opened.

Claim 10 (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the drain valve is opened essentially in concurrence with discontinuing the supply of liquid to the process tank.

Claim 11 (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the top surface of the inner weir has an inside edge and an outside edge, wherein the top surface of the inner weir is tapered downwardly from the inside edge to the outside edge, wherein the inside edge of the top surface is below the bottom of the at least one recess.

Claim 12 (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the at least one recess is saw-toothed, rectangular, or semi-circular.

Claim 13 (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the at least one drain hole is fluidly connected to a drain valve having an open and closed position so that the at least one drain hole is hermetically sealed when the drain valve is closed and allows fluid to freely flow through the at least one drain hole when the drain valve is opened; wherein the top surface of the inner weir has an inside edge and an outside edge, the top surface of the inner weir being tapered downwardly from the inside edge to the outside edge, wherein the inside edge of the top surface is below the bottom of the at least one recess; and wherein the at least one recess is saw toothed.